

Customer No.: 31561  
Application No.: 10/605,214  
Docket No.: 9789-US-PA

### **REMARKS**

#### **Present Status of the Application**

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers claims 5,-7, 13 and 14 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8 and cancelled claims 5 and 13. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims, 1-2, 6-9 and 14 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claims 5 and 13 have been cancelled, without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice, and independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 5 and 12, respectively, which the examiner considered as allowable subject matter. Applicants have cancelled the aforementioned claim merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present invention. Applicant reserves the right to purpose the subject matter of this and previously cancelled claims in a continuation application, if Applicants so choose.

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth hereinbefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-2, 6-9 and 14 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic

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conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

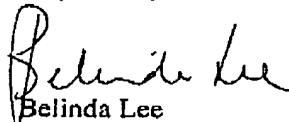
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**CONCLUSION**

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the presently pending claims 1-2, 6-9 and 14 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: May 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

  
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